



# GET READY, SANTA BARBARA!

## Home & Family Awareness

### Sustainability—Recognizing Short and Long-Term Disaster Recovery Pt. 3

#### Contents:

- **Sustainability**
  - ⇒ Disaster Recovery Process Pt. 3
- **Main Feature:**
  - ⇒ Garage Safety
- **Stella's Corner**
  - ⇒ The Cave
- **Disasters**
  - ⇒ April 15-20
- **Building a Disaster Kit on a Budget**
  - ⇒ Partnering
- **Calendar**

#### Upcoming Issue in May 2015



In next month's newsletter we will discuss creating defensible space which is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire.

Last month we discussed planning ahead for disaster recovery. This month we will look at a brief discussion regarding long and short term recovery.

Usually, communities think of preparing for a disaster before its onset. Then think of responding and recovering from a disaster as activities for after the event. However, sometimes communities do respond before disaster happens. For example in predictable events, like flooding, there is time to notify people of the impending danger, take protective measures, and evacuate safely. Response actions are taken before anything happens, reducing the need to respond further and reducing some elements of short-term recovery that might otherwise be necessary.

Long-term recovery begins when a community starts to repair or replace roads, bridges, homes, and stores. It is also the period where improvement and changes for the better, such as strengthening buildings codes, changing land use and zoning designations, improving transportation corridors, and replacing affordable housing stock, are considered. Whether they are considered during pre-disaster planning or short-term post disaster recovery, it is during the long-term recovery period that most changes in preexisting conditions can and do occur. Changes such as improving traffic circulation or supplementing affordable housing units are examples of improvements in a community's quality of life. Changes that include sustained efforts to reduce loss of life and property from the next disaster, such as changes to building codes and land use designation, are examples of mitigation.

In catastrophic disasters, such as the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami or Hurricane Katrina in 2005, short and long term recovery phases can be significantly different than in disasters of a lesser magnitude. Short-term recovery activities can continue for months, seriously impacting the ability to integrate long-term recovery and mitigation opportunities into early decision making. Long-term post-disaster recovery may begin with the repopulation of displaced residents and with participatory processes for visioning the future that may occur at scales ranging from neighborhood to regional. The recovery of severely impacted communities may also include economic revitalization, vocational retraining and social network rehabilitation. Next month we will look at different perspectives of disaster recovery.



#### 2015 Topics

April  
Garage

May  
Defensible  
Space

June  
Vacation  
Safety

July  
Water  
Safety

August  
Back to  
School

September  
Business  
Continuity

# Garage Safety

Fires in garages and home workshops are a serious matter. The typical garage or workshop contains a host of flammable materials, from liquids such as gasoline and paint thinner to wood, sawdust and greasy rags. Often, garages and workshops contain heat sources such as water heaters and furnaces that can ignite a fire.

As with most things involving safety, the key to keeping your garage or workshop as fireproof as possible is to make sure you have the right equipment and that you get into the habit of making the safest choices. Here are three steps to garage and workshop fire prevention that everyone can and should take.

## Step 1: Establish Safe Routines

If you develop safe habits, fire prevention will become routine.

- When you cut or sand wood, you create sawdust and wood chips. These small pieces of wood are much more combustible than larger boards. Sweep them up right away and you will eliminate a big source of workshop fires.
- After using paint, stain, finishing oils or solvents, seal the containers and store them in a safe place.
- Properly dispose of oily rags to avoid the possibility of spontaneous combustion. That means placing the rags in a steel bucket with a self-closing lid. Alternatively, hang the rags on a line in a single layer to dry. Keep them far away from heat and fire sources.

## Step 2: Practice Safe Storage

Fires require three things: fuel, oxygen and heat. Keep those three things from coming together and you have taken a big step in reducing the chances of a fire. Good storage makes that possible.

- Keep all combustibles away from regular sources of heat or fire, such as water heaters, space heaters, furnaces and boilers.



***Garages are prime places for fires to start. This is because many people store both combustible materials and fire starters in their garages.***



- Store flammable products such as wood finishes, spray paint and paint thinner in a dedicated storage container with a closed door.
- A certified [flammable storage cabinet](#) is best to store these types of materials. Don't assume that any storage container will do.

## Step 3: Buy Proper Safety Equipment

You don't have to spend much money to buy what you need to alert you about a fire or put a fire out before it spreads.

- Keep a fire extinguisher in your garage or workshop, preferably stored close to an exit door. See [How To Choose a Fire Extinguisher for Your Home](#).
- Equip the garage or workshop with the proper type of smoke alarm. See [Shopping for a Smoke Alarm and Carbon Monoxide Detector](#).
- Consider installing a sprinkler system, or extending the sprinkler system in your house.

Lastly think about lighting in your garage or workspace.

With tight spaces and lots of tripping hazards, a garage should really be the brightest room in the house. But a third of American garages have inadequate lighting, according to a 2005 Home Safety Council/GarageTek survey; some have only one dim fixture in the center of the room. So, have additional light fixtures professionally installed over stairs and work areas, and use the maximum wattage bulb allowed (listed on the inside of the light socket). Protect bulbs with plastic or metal cage guards, available at hardware stores, in case you accidentally hit them with tall tools, skis, or golf clubs. If rewiring for extra light fixtures isn't an option, consider a portable outdoor work lamp with a retractable cord, which you can move with you to different parts of the garage.

## Community Corner – The Cave

Time to 'fess up'. I am as guilty as most, less than a few. When the door goes up, like a stage curtain, what do you see? Storage boxes stacked higher than you can comfortably reach filled with the dated contents of the stuff you ditched last time your in-laws surprised you, a collection of ant and roach remedies, some rusted cans of paint left over from the last time you spray painted the patio furniture? Say, wasn't that a patio set or two from the past?

Take a close look. Somewhere in this maze of storage is what should be here, a water heater, a fire extinguisher, a car or two, bicycles hung with care, and perhaps a washer and dryer. Our homes, for many of us, are small and not designed for storage, so we put pressure on that extra space for that function. It is not necessarily that we store things in the garage, but what we store and how we store that causes problems. Accessing the storage and the cars in a safe manner, especially during or after an emergency, must be considered.

Begin at the door, the big door with the remote control. We just push a button either inside the car or next to the door. Now for the question: can you operate this door without electric power? Do you, and the other members of your household, know how to lift the door in an emergency? Do you have an emergency food supply stored securely in the garage? Can the members of your family access what you have stored?

Think earthquake as you look around at your shelving. What will topple? If you are like I was, the answer would be EVERYTHING, from the car products, the collection of your Dad's old National Geographic magazines, the case of Chubby Checkers, Elvis, and Brasil 66 vinyl records, your



grandma's crystal, etc. Stored highest are items thought to be most important, and if it is the crystal, it has the furthest to fall.

Chaos Theory says there is order in the mess. Your neighbor hauls out everything on a Saturday and spends two days sorting and re-storing. Do not have Garage Envy. Create your own enviable garage. Put derelict spray cans of paint and bug killers where they belong, the ABOP facility. Do the same with pesticides, unlabeled containers of liquid or solids you can no longer identify or use, and household chemicals past their usefulness.

Ladders need to be safe and tall enough to do the job right. They should be hung, not left on the floor. Solvents need to be stored in a well ventilated area, not necessarily in the garage. Dryers need to be free of lint (a bit of dryer lint in your Go-Bag makes a great fire starter), electrical appliances and cords need to be in good repair, and properly stored.

Create your own visual, a child wandering your garage, for instance. What would you move, hang up, or do to keep that child from harm?

Man Cave, or Cave, or whatever you call it, your garage is the first and last stop for safety. To learn more about safety in the garage and home, contact Yolanda McGlinchey with the City of Santa Barbara. Sign up for the CERT class, and the next time your neighbors haul everything out of the garage, you can admire their stuff and their storage, knowing yours is safely secured.



Stella Larson,  
Mesa Resident

If you would like to contribute to this column, please contact Yoli McGlinchey at [ymcglinchey@santabarbaraca.gov](mailto:ymcglinchey@santabarbaraca.gov)

## Disasters—Historical Disasters & Tragedies between April 15-20

Below is a list of disasters and tragedies that have happened between April 15-20.

- Abraham Lincoln, 16th President, was assassinated on April 15, 1865.
- Titanic sank in the North Atlantic Ocean on April 15, 1912 after colliding with an iceberg during her maiden voyage.
- Boston Marathon bombings April 15, 2013.
- Virginia Tech massacre, a school shooting took place on April 16, 2007.
- A 51-day siege of Mount Carmel Center in Waco Texas ended on April 19, 1993. Oklahoma City bombing, domestic terrorist attack, took place on April 19, 1995.

- The Columbine High School massacre was a school shooting which occurred on April 20, 1999.
- The Johnson Space Center Shooting took place on April 20, 2007 in the Communication and Tracking Development Laboratory at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.
- Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion, causing the drilling rig to sink began on April 20, 2010.

Now, some say the time frame between April 15th through the 20th are very unlucky days. I am not superstitious, but.....



**Santa Barbara City Office  
of Emergency Services**

121 W. Carrillo Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Phone: 805-564-5711

Fax: 805-564-5730

E-mail:

YMcGlinchey@SantaBarbaraCA.gov



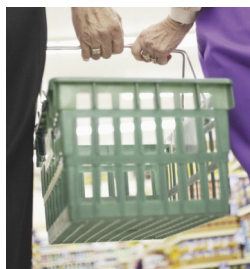
We're on the Web!

[www.santabarbaraca.gov/oes](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/oes)

and



## Building a Disaster Kit on a Budget—Partnering



Another good option for saving money is to look for deals at bulk grocery stores, e.g., Smart & Final, Costco, etc. Although less expensive, the catch is you may end up with more than you can store. To solve this problem, think about partnering with a neighbor or friend and/or your neighborhood to build your kit together. This way, everyone will be able to take advantage of discounts by splitting your purchases. Not only that, it will get your friends and neighborhood working together to become disaster resistant.

As an additional benefit, partnering up with someone else is also a great opportunity to talk about your family's emergency preparedness plan. You can also find out about their plans and then you can begin to work together during a disaster. Remember, to do everything you can to "Get Ready Santa Barbara".

*Do you have an idea you want to share? Maybe you have another way of saving money when building your kit; we want to hear about it. Send your ideas, questions, or comments to:*

[LiEncinas@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:LiEncinas@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)



Liliana Encinas

## Upcoming Events

► April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3 	4
5	6	7 Carmel Popcorn Day 	8	9 Name Yourself Day 	10	11 Nat'l Submarine Day 
12	13 	14	15 Titanic Remembrance Day 	16	17	18
19	20 Patriot Day 	21 Volunteer Recognition Day 	22 Administrative Professionals Day 	23	24 	25
26 	27	28	29	30 Nat'l Honesty Day 		